

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Examiner's first Office Action of December 15, 2005 the Applicant respectfully submits the accompanying Terminal Disclaimer with respect to USSN 10/760,182, Amendment to the specification and claims, and the below Remarks.

Regarding Amendment

In the Amendment:

page 14, line 3, page 15, line 22, page 18, line 12, page 19, line 3, and page 23, line 10 of the present specification are amended to omit reference to Fig. 17C;

independent claim 1 is amended to clarify that the a fluid distribution member is provided to mount each one of the printhead integrated circuits to the support member so as to form the claimed unitary arrangement of the printhead module. Support for this amendment can be found at page 7, line 7-page 9, line 9 of the present specification; and dependent claims 2-11 are unchanged.

It is respectfully submitted that the above amendments do not add new matter to the present application.

Regarding Drawing Objections

It is respectfully submitted that the above-described amendments to omit reference to Fig. 17C in the present specification, provides the correction required by the Examiner.

Regarding 35 USC 102(b) Rejections

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of amended independent claim 1, and claims 2, 3, 5 and 8-10 dependent therefrom, is not disclosed by Silverbrook et al. (US 6,439,908), for at least the following reasons.

In the present invention, each printhead module 30 has two or more printhead tiles 50, which each support two or more printhead integrated circuits 51, arranged on a fluid channel member 40, so that each printhead module is formed as a unitary arrangement of those components. By forming such a unitary arrangement, the printhead modules can be easily assembled within the casing 20 to form a pagewidth printhead whilst providing easy replacement of the modules and selection of printhead length without needing to provide individual controllers and connections and printing fluid distribution arrangements for each printhead integrated circuit (see page 7, line 7-page 9, line 9 of the present specification). Independent claim 1 has been amended to clarify this unitary arrangement of the present invention.

On the other hand, Silverbrook et al. discloses a printhead assembly 10 in which each printhead module 12 has a single microelectromechanical chip 18 mounted to a support molding 26,28. Each module is plugged into a reservoir molding 32 housing an ink reservoir 16. Each module may be individually removed from the reservoir molding such that a unitary arrangement of the chips and support moldings (i.e., modules) and the reservoir molding is not provided (see col. 2, lines 2-34 of Silverbrook et al.).

Thus, Silverbrook et al. does not disclose a printhead module having the unitary arrangement recited in amended independent claim 1. Furthermore, the disclosure of Silverbrook et al. does not teach or suggest one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the disclosed assembly, because Silverbrook et al. specifically teaches that the modularity is provided by the plugging in of the modules into the reservoir molding.

Thus, the subject matter of amended independent claim 1, and claims 2-11 dependent therefrom, is not disclosed or suggested by Silverbrook et al..

Regarding 35 USC 103(a) Rejections

Silverbrook et al. in view of Silverbrook (WO 2001/089849)

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of dependent claim 4 is not taught or suggested by Silverbrook et al. in view of Silverbrook, for at least the following reasons.

Silverbrook merely discloses a single laminated stack 11 mounting several print chips 27 to an ink distribution molding 35 (see page 5 of Silverbrook).

Thus, the subject matter of amended independent claim 1, and claims 2-11 dependent therefrom, is not disclosed or suggested by Silverbrook et al. either taken alone or in combination with Silverbrook.

Silverbrook et al. in view of Lu et al. (US 2003/0007042)

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of dependent claim 8 is not taught or suggested by Silverbrook in view of Lu, for at least the following reasons.

Lu merely discloses a reciprocating printhead 2,10 (see paragraphs [0001]-[0003] and [0013] of Lu), not a pagewidth, modular printhead assembly.

Thus, the subject matter of amended independent claim 1, and claims 2-11 dependent therefrom, is not disclosed or suggested by Silverbrook et al. either taken alone or in combination with Lu.

Regarding Provisional Double Patenting Rejections

With respect to the provisional non-statutory double patenting rejection of pending claims 1-11 over claims 1-11 of copending Application No. 10/760,182, a terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.321(c) is being submitted herewith; the present application and Application No. 10/760,182 being commonly owned by the Applicant.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's objections and rejections have been traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Very respectfully,

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